

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendment is respectfully requested. The amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance and is, therefore, appropriate under Rule 116. The amendment does not raise any new issues and, thus, does not require any additional search by the Examiner.

The amendment was not earlier presented because the alleged indefiniteness in the claims was not noticed, and the possibility of §112, first paragraph, rejection was not appreciated until set forth in the Final Office Action.

By the present amendment, Claims 3 and 8 are amended to eliminate an alleged indefiniteness therein.

Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 2-6 and 8 for an alleged insufficiency of the disclosure, specifically pointing out that an adjustment unit associated with

a support plate “for adjustment of the support plate relative to a respective roll stand ...” is allegedly not described in sufficient details. Applicant respectfully submits that description of the adjustment unit and its cooperation with the support plate is adequate.

Specifically, the specification discloses (paragraph bridging pages 3-4) that the transversely displaceable support plates are displaced with a transport device from a position for replacing the working rolls into a position for replacing the back-up rolls and back, by being sunk transverse to the rolling direction in a direction of a control pulpit beneath the mill floor level and adjacent to a trench region. In the position for replacing the working rolls, the support plates are arranged immediately adjacent to the roll stands and form themselves an upper closure of the trenches. The transverse displacement takes place directly in front of the rolling mill train. As a result, the displacement path of the working rolls is reduced, and whereby the necessary time for the working roll replacement is reduced to a minimum. With the position of a support plate immediately adjacent to the roll stand, which corresponds to the replacement of the working rolls, the position of the support plate should be adjusted in accordance with the actual position of the working rolls. To this end, an adjustment device or unit should be used. With the basic premise now being

known, the selection of the appropriate adjustment unit and its connection with the support plate would be a matter of routine engineering.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2-6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112 Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite, pointing out specific language in these claims that renders them indefinite.

As noted above, claims 3 and 8 are amended to delete the alleged indefiniteness therein.

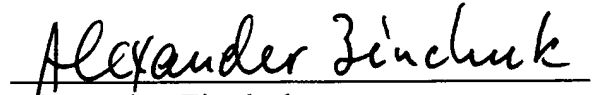
It is respectfully submitted that claims 2-6 and 8 comply with all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112 and are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place the case in condition for final allowance, it is respectfully requested that such amendment or correction be carried out by Examiner's Amendment and the case passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



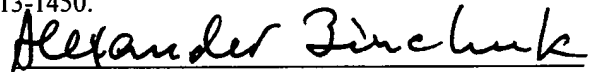
Alexander Zinchuk

Reg. No. 30,541

Dated: October 20, 2006
Abelman, Frayne & Schwab
666 Third Avenue, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10017-5621

212-885-9383

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Alexander Zinchuk